

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 17-34 are pending. Claim 17 has been amended. New claims 21-34 have been added. Support for the amended claim 17 and new claims may be found at least on page 5, paragraph 22, and page 6, paragraph 23 of the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added by the amendment or new claims.

In the Office Action, a restriction requirement was issued by the Examiner between the following two groups of claims: Group I: claims 1-16, and Group II: claims 17-20. During a telephone conversation with the Examiner on July 26, 2005, Group II, claims 17-20, has been elected with traverse. Group I is accordingly canceled without prejudice. In replying this Office Action, Applicant hereby confirms this election.

Claims 17-20 are objected to for informalities. The Examiner noted that the preamble recites a method for manufacturing integrated circuit devices while the limitations recited in the body of the claim are drawn to a method for using a mask. In response, the preamble of the claim 17 has been amended to recite a method for making integrated circuit devices using a mask. Accordingly, the objection should be moot.

Drawings are objected to because of the following reasons; 1) Figures 1-3 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- pursuant to MPEP §608.02(g), 2) Features in Figure 1 are not distinguishable, and 3) Figure 1 does not include the reference number "101", mentioned in the description (page 4, line 28). In response, applicant added a legend --Prior Art-- to Figures 1 through 3 as suggested by the Examiner. As to the reference number "101", Figure 1 shows the reference number "101" as originally filed. Applicants now submit replacement drawing that clearly shows the reference number 101 as originally labeled. Applicants submit replacement drawings for figures 1-8 bearing all the numerals as originally filed to overcome the objections. Drawings are labeled in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet". Applicant respectfully request the Examiner withdraw objections to Figures 1-3 in light of the above corrections.

Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fosnight et al. (US 6,216,873 B1) in view of Lee (US 2003/0013258 A1). In the Office action,

the Examiner noted that Fosnight appears to disclose a conventional photo mask used in an operation for the manufacture of semiconductor circuits and a process for making the photo mask. The Examiner also noted that Lee (US 2003/0013258 A1) discloses a photo mask comprising an electrostatic discharge protection structure (ESD) and the ESD protection structure includes an active charge sinker 92 further comprising fuse 58. Applicant asserts that claim 17, as amended, is patentable over the cited references.

As amended, claim 17 now recites the combination of elements including a guard ring structure having at least one fuse structure that includes a plurality of elongated members. Lee clearly fails to disclose or suggest these claimed features including at least the guard ring structure having at least one fuse structure including a plurality of elongated members. The fuse structure indicated by Lee merely serves to connect the sinker 38 to the pod 30 and is not the a plurality of elongated members as provided by claim 17. See page 4, paragraph 43 of Lee. Accordingly, nowhere in the cited references disclose or suggest a plurality of fuse structure including at least a plurality of elongated members in the manner claimed as recited by amended claim 17. For at least the foregoing reason, Fosnight and Lee, considered individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest each of the claim limitations of the amended claim 17 and is therefore patentable.

Dependent claims 18 through 20 are also patentable over the cited references. As shown, claims 18-20 depend from claim 17. These claims are allowable for at least the reasons noted as well as other reasons. Applicant also added new claims 21 through 25 that depend upon at least claim 17. These claims are patentable for similar reasons, as well as other reasons. Accordingly, claims 17 through 25 are patentable over the cited references.

Applicant also added independent claim 26 and dependent claims 27 through 34, which depend upon claim 16. As noted, no new matter has been added thereby. Applicant respectfully requests that these new claims be entered by way of this amendment. These claims are also believed patentable over the cited art.

Appl. No. 10/773,597
Amdt. dated November 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 30, 2005

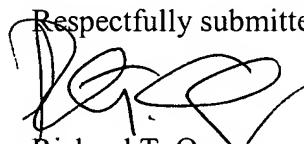
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings replace the original drawings. As suggested by the Examiner, a legend -- Prior Art -- was added to Figures 1-3. Applicants submit replacement drawings for figures 1-8 bearing all numerals appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets